

Athletica™ news

Roller Hockey Meets Soccer In Michigan Successful Soccer Facility Expands and Includes In-Line

The finest facility in the country. That was the goal established by Total Soccer Wixom's Managing Partner, Bob Scheuer. Easy enough, right?



"We set our goal to build the finest facility in the country, and Brian Stang, Aren Mahlum and their team at Athletica helped us to deliver...and deliver *on time*."

*Bob Scheuer, Managing Partner,
Total Soccer Wixom*

Total Roller Hockey, located inside the Total Soccer facility in Wixom, Michigan, was born from the idea that Detroit is Hockeytown and demand is high for quality playing options. Even though there was stiff competition in the area, Scheuer knew that if he gave people the best product, he could come out on top. So, who better to help him reach his lofty goal than Athletica, the industry leader for professional dasher board systems.



finally the flooring. So far, the reaction from the athletes has been outstanding. Even before Total Roller Hockey opened its doors, customers were signing up because of the reputation for quality that Total Soccer Wixom has built throughout the area.

Athletica installed two, full-size 180' x 80' roller hockey rinks, complete with Border Patrol Pro 6000 dasher systems and Sport Court Flooring. In addition, a Soccer Patrol 5000 soccer system was installed, adding to the existing two soccer rinks. Athletica also provided new protective netting for all five rinks.



**Inaugural Puck Drop
September 15, 2002**

Additional features at Total Roller Hockey include:

- Seamless Glass
- Eight Locker Rooms
- Showers
- Pro Shop
- One Rink with Bleacher Seating
- One Rink with Tables and Bar Stools
- Direct Statistics to Internet (via Playmaker)

"It was critical to get our rinks open on time - to showcase them before our leagues opened on September 15th," says Scheuer. "I relied on the knowledge of my expert staff and the professionals at Athletica to get the job done."

The process began with moving Total Soccer's existing indoor boarded soccer fields to make room for the new soccer field and two new hockey rinks. Next came installation of the boards, seamless glass, netting and

Total Soccer has been a leader in the indoor soccer business since 1985, opening Total Soccer Wixom in 1997. Total Soccer Wixom is home to Total Baseball, Total Softball, Total Football, Total Roller Hockey, Total Performance Training Center, and a new Restaurant/Bar. The 290,000-square-foot facility also includes an outdoor pavilion, snack bar, kids playscape, and outdoor softball/little league fields.

Total Roller Hockey will be offering leagues for all ages and skill levels - everything from Learn to Skate, to The Brick Wall Goalie class, to a top-notch Sniper School. For more information on Total Roller Hockey, please visit their web site at www.totalrollerhockey.com or call (248) 669-9831.

For more information on Border Patrol permanent indoor rink systems, contact Athletica's Brian Stang at 800.809.RINK, ext. 221, or bstang@athleticainc.com.

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Build a Park Network To Meet Demand



ICEdashers

A Dream Come True for Canterbury School

After 15 Years, Draddy Arena Finally Boasts A New Crystaplex Rink System

On the western edge of Connecticut, in a town called New Milford, there is one very happy rink manager.

Mike Onorato, Rink Manager for Draddy Arena at the Canterbury School, has been dreaming about the day when the arena's homemade wooden rink system with chain-link fencing and plexiglass could finally be torn down.

For the past 22 years, Onorato has had his share of frustration with the constant repair and maintenance. He's had to watch the players make do with the inadequate play of their rink, while the rest of the school circuit has long since upgraded their rinks. As the operations crew prepared to put the ice in at the beginning of each season, the annual painting of the boards was a painful reminder that they would need to endure yet one more year until the rink could be replaced.

For the 2002/2003 season, Mike is happy to announce that there will be *no more painting*.

When the school gave the go-ahead on the replacement of the rink, the seasoned rink manager knew exactly what he wanted for the arena. "The quality and look of other rinks didn't really compare to Athletica's Crystaplex dasher systems," explained Onorato. With the help of local Athletica representative Scott Lebedz, a rink system was designed to meet the specific needs of Draddy Arena.

Canterbury School purchased a Crystaplex Series 6A Seamless dasher board system. To further reduce maintenance and maximize the clean appearance of the rink, they installed backer panels throughout. Installation started on July 11,



"We were looking for something easy to install, and we wanted a rink that would really enhance the quality and look of our ice facility. The new rink is everything we expected."

Mike Onorato, Rink Manager, Draddy Arena at Canterbury School

2002, and was finished one week later.

Though the ice isn't scheduled to go in until October 1st, the initial reaction from the community and the school has been outstanding. The local youth hockey organization witnessed the rink being torn down and replaced, and can't wait to play on the new rink. Spectators are excited to view their first game at Draddy Arena through NHL-style seamless glass, instead of the old plexiglass.

The new glass is reportedly so clean and clear that one of the employees, while inspecting the new boards up close, forgot the glass was there at all. He



Rink Manager Mike Onorato explains how the backer panels, shown by him above, enhance the look of the facility. *"The backer panels allow the mat flooring to be butted right up to the bottom of the board, and eliminates the collection of dirt and litter on the frame of the boards. They totally finish the look of the boards."*

bumped his head trying to lean over the boards to look at the other side. According to Onorato, that's been about the only "bump" in the entire rink replacement project. "Scott and the rest of the team at Athletica were terrific to work with. They were responsive and attentive to detail."

Draddy's new rink will continue to be used for high school practice and games, figure skating, youth hockey and adult league play. After school hours, the school rents out the seasonal facility to fill the never-ending need for ice time.

For more information on Crystaplex Ice Rinks, or to find a local representative in your area, please contact Athletica at 800.809.RINK, or e-mail boards@athleticainc.com.

FACILITYproducts

Sharpen Your Shooting Skills This Season

Missed the net one too many times? Want to finally put one past the goalie? Then it may be time to go back to school with the Shooter Tutor. This practice aid improves accuracy by training players to aim for four corners and the five-hole, which are the most difficult areas for the goal tender to defend against. It can also act as a substitute practice goalie when one isn't available. Fully portable, the Shooter Tutor installs/removes from the net in seconds. Weighing only 10 lbs., it rolls up to a 3' x 4" bundle, storing easily in a car trunk or even an equipment bag. In addition, the Shooter Tutor is extremely durable. Tested

extensively at -30°F, this product stopped pucks shot at speeds of 100mph. For more information or to place an order, please contact Athletica's Arena Services department at 800.576.1132 (Canada) or 800.809.RINK, ext.214 (USA), or you may e-mail boards@athleticainc.com



Stabilicers™ Anti-Skid Detachable Soles



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from the RINK

KEEP TRAINING ON ICE

The quality of your ice can be greatly affected by the skill level of those maintaining it on a regular basis. Make a point to train your personnel for resurfer and edger operating yearly. For optimum ice quality, train operations personnel to alternate corners on each resurfacing and to edge at least twice a week, depending on the ice load. This will help you maintain a good clarity of ice markings and keep a level ice surface for a longer period of time.

Credited with the Assist for this issue:
Russ Rohloff
LeSueur Community Center
LeSueur, MN

Do you have the inside edge on preventative maintenance or other proven facility tips? Mail to "Rink Tips" c/o Athletica, 4814 Park Glen Road, Mpls, MN 55416, or e-mail to boards@athleticainc.com One tip will be randomly selected for each issue.

IN-LINEdashers

Hockey Demand Calls - Colorado Springs Into Action

Colorado Springs plays home to the headquarters of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine, in addition to such fine college hockey programs as Colorado College and Air Force Academy. These higher-level hockey programs, along with the popularity of the NHL's Colorado Avalanche, have ignited the area's demand for hockey, especially in-line hockey. Recognizing this growth, the City of Colorado Springs Park & Recreation Department has been making great strides toward building an in-line hockey feeder system.

Stride One

"You see kids in-line skating and playing hockey in driveways and cul-de-sacs all over the place," said John Carricato, Program Director for Colorado Springs Park & Recreation. This prompted the city to build several multi-sport courts in their neighborhood parks.



A neighborhood park in Colorado Springs utilizes the same court for both basketball and in-line hockey use.

Mike Shafer, Landscape Architect for the city, explained their strategy. "We initially built the multi-sport courts to offer a safer alternative to the streets for the skaters. We didn't build them solely for hockey because we were unsure about the long-term demand for the sport."

Stride Two

It didn't take long for the city to notice a trend. The demand for hockey grew! So much so, that Shafer planned the construction of Colorado Spring's first outdoor tournament-style in-line hockey rink. Completed in February 2002, the rink at Cottonwood Community Park has been flooded with kids of all ages since opening day. "There seems to be a pick-up game going on every time I drive by the new rink," says Shafer. "We estimate that the rink attracts 30 to 50 players per day, or 200 to 300 kids per week."



This rink in Cottonwood Park features a Border Patrol Pro 4000A dasher board system on an official-size concrete slab, and chain-link style penalty/player/scorer boxes with benches and elevated flooring

Stride Three

After building the new rink, the city called on their special teams for program support. "We taught fundamentals to a full group of 100 beginner- and intermediate-level players at our summer hockey camp. Focused on skills, drills, and scrimmaging, the camp was a success, and we expect to offer it again next summer," Carricato said. "The kids that come through our grass roots programs will now have the opportunity to play in more and more organized leagues, as several new private indoor in-line facilities have recently been built in the area."



One stride at a time, the City of Colorado Springs Park & Recreation Department is successfully working toward becoming one of the strongest in-line hockey feeder programs in the country.



Introducing Bob Churchich of Churchich Recreation!
We feel fortunate that Bob has joined our team as the exclusive Border Patrol Representative for Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico. You may call Bob directly at 303.530.4414.

For more information on Border Patrol permanent outdoor rinks, please contact Eric Johnson at Athletica: 800.809.RINK, ext. 203, or via e-mail at ejohnson@athleticainc.com.

PORTABLEdashers

Border Patrol Portable Brings Mayport Sailors a Little Piece of Home

For Rita Hammerstad, Sports Coordinator for Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) at the Naval Station Mayport in Florida, the mission is clear: To meet the needs of sailors and their families. When the request for in-line hockey came in, Rita and her colleagues at MWR went into action.

An assessment of the current MWR Mayport facilities showed that one of the ten existing tennis courts was not being utilized. With a fence surrounding the court, it made a good candidate for converting to in-line hockey use. During some research on the Internet to find the typical size of an in-line rink, MWR uncovered information on a portable rink system that could be sized to order. The idea of in-line hockey at NS Mayport was becoming a plan.

"With the amount of time, money and space MWR had to work with, we found that the Border Patrol products were able to meet all our rink needs," explained Hammerstad. A Border Patrol Portable BP-2 rink system with custom screen-printing was ordered to fit the exact dimensions of the tennis court. Athletica also supplied a set of BP Tournament goals and Zero Bounce balls.

"Athletica was most helpful in the completion of the rink project, and made our decision to put a rink together easy. Their knowledge of the system and sport made it more of a fun project than work."

Rita Hammerstad,
MWR Sports Coordinator
Naval Station Mayport, FL



A ribbon cutting ceremony took place June 8, 2001, immediately followed by a face-off, marking the official start to the in-line hockey season at Mayport.

Additional needs for the project included a newly texturized and painted rink surface, lights, padding for the light poles, and hockey equipment such as helmets, pads and sticks. From



"The MWR rink is currently used for both league play and pick-up games. The rink is set up outdoors in the hot sun and gets a lot of use, but it has held together beautifully."

MWR Sports Coordinator, Rita Hammerstad

initial research to final installation, the project was completed in two months with an approximate total cost of \$15,000.

"For the amount of both time and money spent on this project, the outcome was overwhelming," commented Rita. "We succeeded in replacing an old unused tennis court with a highly populated in-line hockey rink, providing another sport for the athletic program on base. The new rink made it possible for the sailors that grew up playing hockey to not only continue playing hockey while on base, but also teach their children the game."

MWR in-line hockey at Naval Station Mayport... mission accomplished.

For more information on Border Patrol Portable rink systems, contact Steve Peterson at 800.809.RINK, ext. 213, or via e-mail at speterson@athleticainc.com.

MULTI-SPORTsystems

Minnesota Parks & Rec Warms Up To GamePlex On Ice



Summer is coming to an end, and for many parks and recreation departments, this means making the dreaded rounds to assess damage to permanent wood rinks that have been up all summer, or taking inventory of what's left of their portable wood rink boards from the previous winter. The seasonal change to ice hockey is usually a high maintenance venture, but for one Minnesota parks and recreation department, it is getting easier and easier.

Back in the fall of 1999, Randy Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director for Apple Valley, saw a new product at the NRPA (National Recreation & Parks Assoc.) Annual Congress. The product was called Sofboards, and it sounded like it might be the solution to his community's need for outdoor ice hockey boards.

The name has since been changed from Sofboards to GamePlex, but the product that interested Randy Johnson remains the same. Aside from the versatility offered by the portable/permanent nature of the system, GamePlex provides a safe and durable playing environment, even under extreme weather conditions (warranted to -40°F). GamePlex was also designed to be affordable. While the initial costs of a wood rink may be half that of a GamePlex rink, ongoing maintenance costs for a wood rink can easily double that initial cost. In addition, GamePlex can serve a number of purposes that wood rinks normally wouldn't.



Typical damage to wood rink boards, which take time and materials to repair.

"We hope to eventually replace all 13 of our outdoor rinks with GamePlex if it continues to be priced right and stands the test of time."

- Randy Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director, Apple Valley, MN

When evaluating plastic vs. wood hockey boards, Randy Johnson called for a quote on Sofboards. "We decided to give the plastic system a try in the hopes that we will see a substantial reduction in maintenance, thus a long term cost savings."

The new rink system was installed outdoors at the beginning of the Fall 2001 hockey season. While other organizations have installed the GamePlex rink system on top of already created ice, Apple Valley found success flooding the already installed rink to create the ice surface.

"The boards went up easily and players seemed to be fine with the change to plastic boards," commented Johnson. The system was used all winter for pick-up and league ice hockey play, and the city kept the rink up during the summer for dryland hockey training and youth soccer.

After almost a full year with the plastic dasher system, Johnson felt confident enough to place an order for a second rink (to be delivered in Fall 2002). "Our goal is to save staff time and taxpayer dollars with the reduction in maintenance required by the new rinks."

To Be Exact...

GamePlex rinks are actually rotational molded, linear medium density polyethylene (LMDPE) panels.

LMDPE vs. Wood

According to Steve Ciatti, an independent plastics consultant, the benefits of LMDPE vs. wood are numerous. *"The roto-molded polyethylene product is impervious to water absorption. It will not rot or mold. It is easy to clean and will never require painting. And the extreme cold temperature impact resistance of roto-molded LMDPE materials is among the highest of all polymeric materials."*

For more information on GamePlex rink systems, contact Chris Guertin at 800.809.7465, ext. 226 or e-mail him at cguertin@athleticainc.com.

SKATEPARKequipment

Community Skateparks: The Shift from Large to Local

With over 300 skateparks currently under construction, it may be hard to imagine how the demand for skateparks continues to grow at such a rapid pace. After all, estimates show there may be as many as 1500 skateparks in North America by the end of 2002.

While this may seem like a lot of parks, there are an estimated 12 to 18 million skateboarders in the U.S. That is more than 8,000 boarders per park! That does not include the in-line skaters or BMXers, and does not account for any actual growth of the sport, which are both important factors in the growing demand for skateparks. Needless to say, meeting demand remains a BIG challenge.

When planning community skateparks, two of the biggest questions, other than how much will it cost, are how big do we build them and where do we build them? Most cities have chosen to build one large park, hoping to meet demand and provide a centralized location in one fell swoop. But once the park is up and running, the most common problem is overcrowding. After the expense of building a major park, do you add on? Do you create another park?

If you are planning your first skatepark, or have the need to add to your existing park, consider building a skatepark network, similar to how tennis courts and playgrounds are built. Considerably less expensive to build, smaller parks

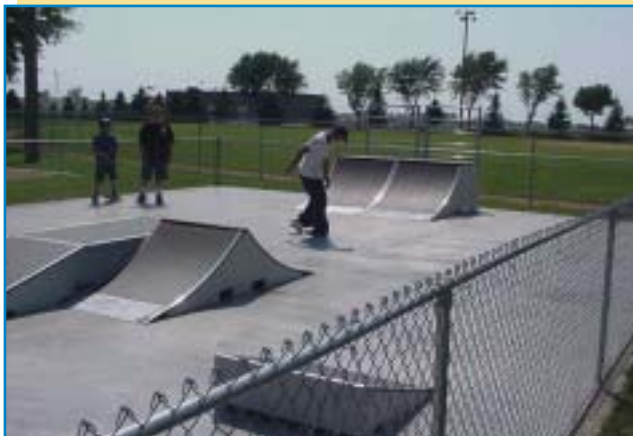
"We are a rural community, and to develop one large skatepark was difficult. Instead we have built three small parks, with plans for a fourth. Our goal was to enable local parks to develop a skatepark that met their individual needs. We have found that the smaller skateparks limit the barriers of transportation and financial restrictions that large park complexes impose. By encouraging community participation in developing a local skatepark, it gives the families and youth a sense of pride as well as a vested interest in the project, which plays a big part in its success. In the end, our project has enabled all youth in Haldimand County reasonable access to skateparks."

Kelly Reichheld

Program Supervisor, Haldimand County, Ontario



Local RampRider Skatepark in Fort Erie, ON



This RampRider skatepark in Albertville, MN measures just over 2100 square feet, but has been meeting demand.

can be put up quickly to meet demand, or even relocated to follow changing demand or to test user levels/locations. By building a number of small parks instead of one big park, it gives you more time, and enables you to evaluate the demand in a cost-effective way, making sizing/planning the "Big park" easier.

If you are having trouble getting started with a network of parks, try starting with one. Many cities have found that converting under-used tennis courts to skateparks makes sense. It's a great way to keep costs down and meet the demand. Typically the courts already have an adequate surface and fencing. Some parks are only 2500 square feet, but this is enough room to accommodate 20-25 riders at one time with the right layout.

Wherever you are on the skatepark spectrum, it seems that first understanding the demand in your area is the key to meeting it. As demand continues to grow, one thing is for certain: *the time to act is now.*

For more information about how RampRider skatepark equipment can quickly and affordably create a new or additional park for you, contact Colby Anderson at Athletica: 800.809.7465, ext. 11 or e-mail him at canderson@athleticainc.com. And check out our new web site at www.ramprider.com.

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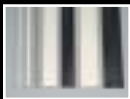
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Come check out Athletica live and in person at the following tradeshows/conferences this fall:

National Rec & Park Assoc. Annual Congress & Expo
Athletic Business Sports & Fitness Facility Expo
Minnesota Rec & Park Assoc. State Conference

Tampa, FL
Orlando, FL
Prior Lake, MN

Booth # 1142
Booth # 307
Booth # TBD

Oct. 17-19
Nov. 7-9
Nov. 13